



# City of Beacon

## Parking and Traffic Safety Committee

City Hall

1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508

### **Minutes**

February 25, 2021 at 9 am

### **Attendees**

Police Lieutenant Jason Walden, Fire Chief Gary VanVoorhis, Secretary Collin Milone

#### **➤ Old Business**

1. Fishkill Ave. Convex Mirror
2. Conklin St. Parking
3. Washington Ave. and Helen Ct.
4. Howland Ave.
5. East Main St. and Spring Valley St.
6. 119 East Main St. Parking Signage
7. Robinson St. and Howland Ave.
8. Goodrich St. and Howland Ave.

#### **➤ New Business**

1. Matteawan Rd.
2. Washington Ave., Spring St., and East Main St.
3. Washington Ave., and Helen Ct.

## 1. Fishkill Avenue Convex Mirror

See the message below from a resident.

I am writing to request a convex mirror be placed on a telephone pole opposite our driveway. We are located on Fishkill Avenue and we are not able to see oncoming traffic until we are halfway into the street which is very unsettling. If you could tell me how to go about sending this request to the most appropriate place, I would greatly appreciate it. I have contacted the Vehicles and Traffic department and Dutchess County but I am not having any luck.

*October:* The Committee directed Collin Milone to write a letter to the resident. The letter recommends the resident reach out to Central Hudson as the pole itself belongs to Central Hudson. Secondly, the letter recommends reaching out to New York State Department of Transportation to determine the legality of putting a convex mirror up on New York State Route 52.

*January:* The resident took the advice from the Committee and reached out to both Central Hudson and NYS DOT. See NYS DOT's response regarding the convex mirror request:

"Mirrors for use on driveways or side streets are not permitted on state highways. Drivers can become over-reliant upon them and the headlights at night can cause glare distractions or misconceptions to traveling motorists.

The address cited is on the arterial portion of Route 52 at the city maintains so I would need to research further who's decision this would be, but we do not recommend that be allowed at this location. With the curve in the roadway and the adjacent side street intersections, reflections of headlights at night to other traffic would be a safety concern. I drive this neighborhood regularly at night and glare is already an issue for turning motorists. The best solutions for this drive would be to lower the hedges below driver eye height and for the owner to build a small "T" hammerhead turn around in the front yard so that the owner can turn the car around in the driveway."

*January continued:* The Committee referred this to the lead Building Inspector, Dave Buckley, and will review again in February.

*February:* The Committee will follow up with Dave Buckley for his comments.

## 2. Conklin Street Parking

*October:* Matthew Dubetsky recommended moving the no parking zone from the north side of Conklin St. to the south side from Fishkill Avenue to Meade Avenue and moving the two-hour parking from the south side of Conklin to the north side from Fishkill Avenue to Meade Avenue.

*January:* The Committee agreed to recommend moving the 2-hour parking currently on the south side of Conklin St. from Fishkill Ave. to Meade Ave., to the north side from Fishkill Ave.

to Meade Ave. Collin Milone will prepare a memorandum from the Committee to the Council for the March 8<sup>th</sup> Workshop.

3. Washington Avenue & Helen Ct.

See the message from a resident below:

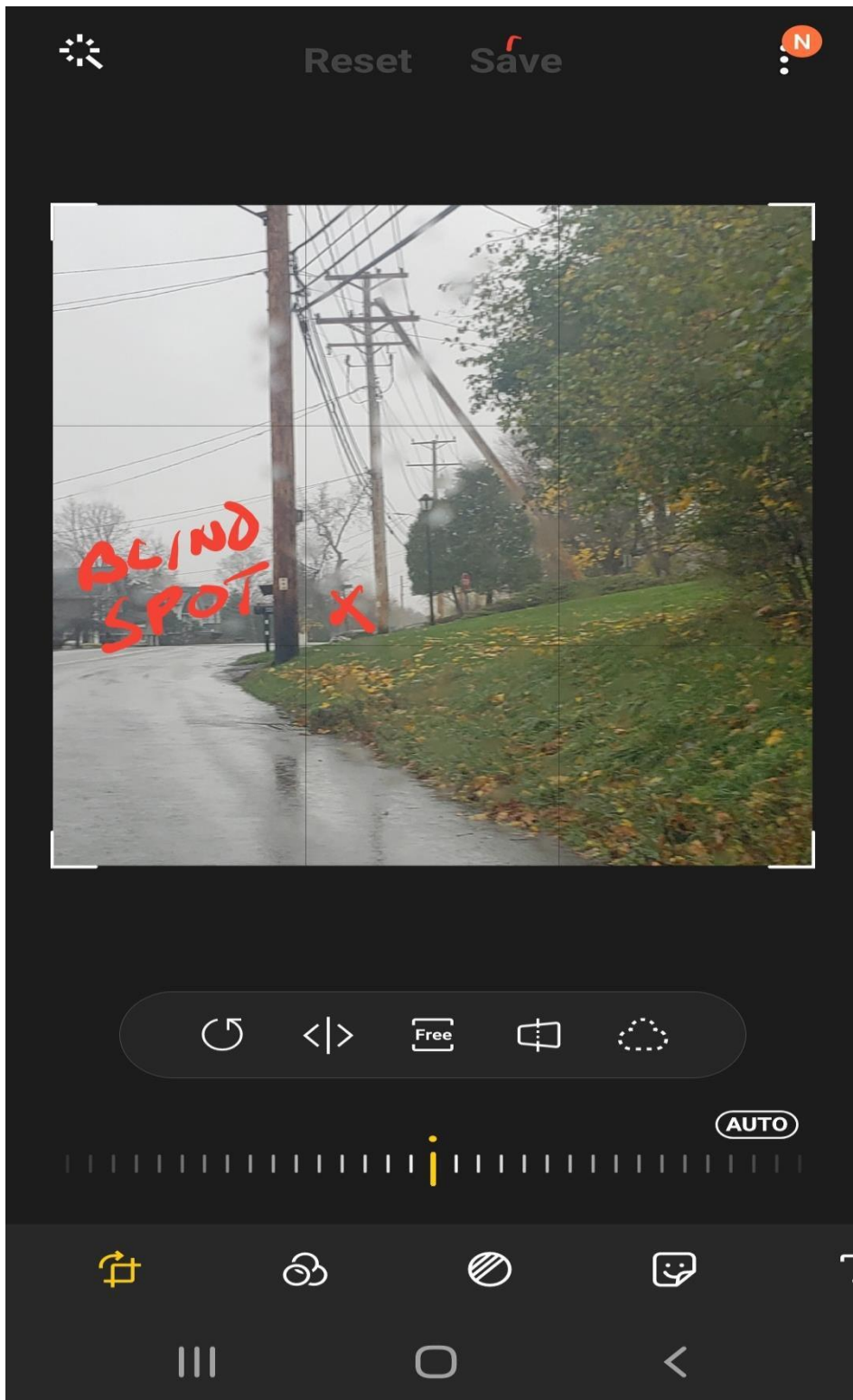
“The situation at Washington Ave & Helen Ct which is the entrance/exit for Glendale Estates. It is a hazardous blind spot as drivers coming east on Washington Ave round a bend in the road approaching Helen Ct. where residents exit Glendale Estates onto Washington Ave. (see picture below).

There have been several close calls recently and I am hoping to avoid accidents/injuries.....including school busses picking up students!

Is it possible to have a sign/flashing light (see picture below) installed to warn drivers of the blind exit round the bend?

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter. Thank you.”





*January:* The Committee recommended installing a sign warning motorist of the upcoming turn and blind spot. Matt will propose which sign is appropriate at the February meeting.

*February:* Collin will write the recommendation for a flashing sign on Washington Ave in front of 470 approaching the intersection with Helen Ct. Matt Dubetsky will provide the location and sign language.

#### 4. Howland Avenue

Please see the message from a resident below:

“Still nothing has been done about the speeding and racing on Howland or how there is a school bus stop dangerously placed right on the curve of Howland & Goodrich. I honestly don't

think having a police officer sitting there catching speeders is the answer. It does not solve the long-term issue. Perhaps a stop sign might do the trick.

Anyways, today as I attempted to leave my street I was almost hit not once but 2x! A SUV was parked on the corner of Goodrich & Howland. Yes, I called the police but again they are not a solution. Since the car was speeding on Howland towards union, I had to drive on someone's lawn to get out of the way. Again, a great spot for a stop sign.

On my second trip out, I left going on Robinson & Howland. Between the ton of political signs blocking the view there were cars parked to the corner. Again, I inched out only to have a car speeding on Howland narrowly miss me.

Thing needs to change on Howland and Robinson, signs that say no parking from here to corner need to be installed in many places.

I'm tired of risking my life to leave my street and I shouldn't have to. The school bus stop needs to be clearly marked. My daughter catches the bus there and her life is not disposable.”

*January:* The Committee proposed a three-way stop on Howland Ave. and Robinson St. along with the appropriate “Approaching Stop Sign” warning signage on both the north and south side of the intersection. Matt and Mickey will determine exactly where the signs need to be placed. Matt will propose which sign is appropriate at the February meeting.

*February:* Collin will write the recommendation to Council for the three-way stop along with “New” attached to each of the signs, as well as two the stop sign ahead signs. Matt Dubetsky will provide the language and location of the stop sign ahead signs.

#### 5. East Main St. and Spring Valley St.

See below a message from Councilmember Dan Aymar-Blair

“I would like to request that the Traffic & Safety Committee take up a review of the junction

of **East Main and Spring Valley**. Several constituents have complained about the dangers posed by this intersection.

Folks going west on East Main don't always signal and speed up regardless of whether they are going down Spring Valley or continuing up East Main. This can cause uncertainty for drivers heading east from either end. Neighbors claim to witness near accidents all the time which is not implausible as I've had some confusing, dangerous situations going through this intersection myself.

I'm not sure what the remedy would be but I believe the intersection should be reviewed for safety improvements.”

This intersection is planned for a professional Traffic Safety Study when traffic patterns return closer to their pre-COVID status quo.

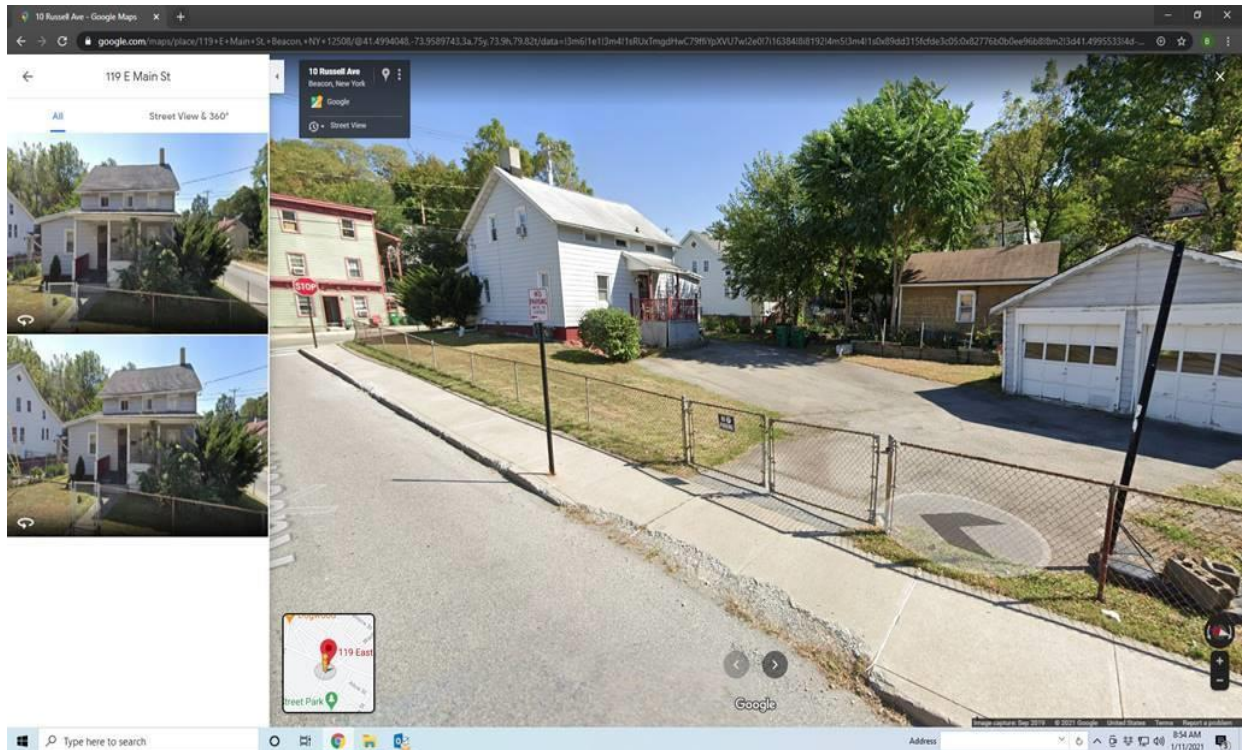
*January:* Police will monitor. This item will appear on the agenda for the February Traffic Safety meeting for an update from the Police.

*February:* The Police Department monitored the intersection during February and will do so again during March for a final report.

6. 119 East Main St. Parking Signage

A resident reached out about installing clearer no parking signage surrounding the driveway at 119 East Main St. due to issues with parked cars blocking ingress and egress. See a picture of the driveway below.





*January:* The Committee recommended a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign at the end of the driveway furthest from the intersection. Mickey and Matt will measure for the language being recommended to Council.

*February:* Collin will write a recommendation to Council with the measurements from Mickey.

## 7. Robinson St. and Howland Ave.

See below a message from the Councilmember Aymar-Blair

“At the intersection of Robinson at Howland Avenue, sight lines for cars pulling out of Robinson continue to be obstructed even with the fence having been removed on the south corner. While it's also a matter of elevations, sometimes cars park on Robinson right up to the intersection, particularly on busy mountain-tourist weekends. I would like to forbid parking at the end of Robinson on both sides where it meets Howland. Distance markers are at the discretion of the committee but 20-feet would probably mark a safety improvement.”

*January:* See number 7 above.



*February:* Collin will write a recommendation to Council to add No Parking Here to Corner signs in accordance with the Code of the City of Beacon.

8. Goodrich St. and Howland Ave.

See below a message from the Councilmember Aymar-Blair

Similar to Robinson St, cars are parking on the east side of Goodrich Street sometimes even with rears hanging out past the stop sign. Folks who live on Goodrich Street have to pull out past this blocked view or Robinson to get to Howland, leaving them with a dangerous situation on most weekends. It's already a gamble to see whether a car is coming around Howland with the sharp turn disguised by the tall fence.

The Howland/Goodrich/Union intersection is a particularly dangerous one. Cars driving south on Howland do not always signal when turning right on to Union. Cars driving north on Howland or east on Union who want to turn left on to Goodrich cannot see oncoming traffic around the bend. This is all much worse given the blocked sight line I described above and that this intersection is also a bus stop where busses stop at Union letting out children to cross Howland. While I don't have any simple solutions to offer, I am of the opinion that this intersection needs an overhaul with a four-way stop sign or traffic light accompanied by a warning sign around the corner.

*January:* The Committee has proposed a "No Left Turn" from Goodrich onto Howland. Collin will include in memorandum to the City Council for the March 8<sup>th</sup> Workshop.

➤ **New Business**

1. Matteawan Rd.

See the message below from a resident.

Painting a crosswalk across Matteawan Road from the foot of the Meadow Ridge Apartment complex driveway across the road to the walkway on BHS property should be pretty simple. As I stated during our meeting, students are constantly walking across the road there with no indication at all for drivers. If another stop sign there seems like it would irritate car drivers too much, surely a painted crosswalk with "stop for pedestrian in crosswalk" signs would be only sensible.

*February:* Collin will reach out to the owner/operator of Meadow Ridge Apartment to ask for a safe walkway to be built across the street from the path on the High School Property in order to put a crosswalk at the location.

## 2. Washington St. East Main St. and Spring St.

See the message below from a business owner at the intersection.

My building got hit and run last night for the second time in the past couple of years, and it's not unprecedented as front of my store is entirely different than from when it was built because a car went through the front of the shop when the Ceeleys owned it.

I have almost been run over on that corner by people deciding that that trip up East Main from Washington is the autobahn of the jeep Thruway.

My only thought for any sort of alleviation is a four-way stop. But I'm open to any kind of suggestion or thought on how to slow that corner down so that it doesn't destroy my livelihood. If the building gets taken out, I'm done. Doesn't seem that unlikely given the frequency of occurrence on that corner. Pretty sure my building and my residence are ward four. If this needs to be taken up with the traffic department I also respectfully request that you forward this to the appropriate people. I will be contacting the Beacon Police Department this morning to file a property damage complaint.

Without the 2 feet of snow on that intersection, This accident would've had the potential to take out a foundational component of my building...and I have tenants upstairs.

*February:* The Committee will review this intersection during the next meeting.

## 3. Washington Ave. and Helen Ct.

See the message below from a resident.

Washington Ave & Helen Ct is the entrance/exit for Glendale Estates. It is a hazardous blind spot as drivers coming east on Washington Ave round a bend in the road approaching Helen Ct. where residents exit Glendale Estates onto Washington Ave.

There have been several close calls recently and I am hoping to avoid accidents/injuries.....including school busses picking up students!

Is it possible to have a sign/flashing light installed to warn drivers of the blind exit round the bend?

*February:* See # 3 of Old Business